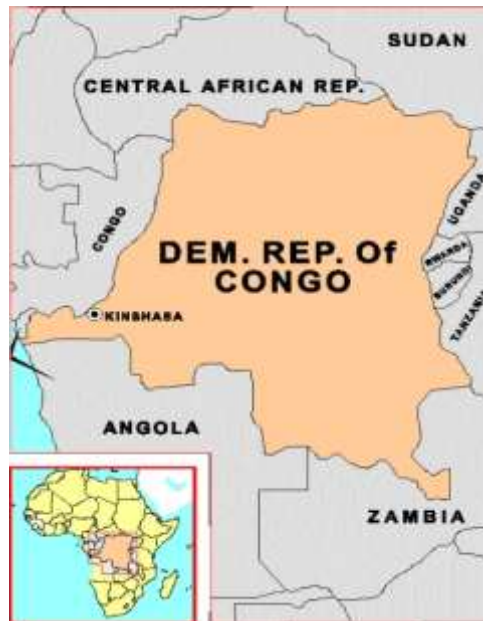


Democratic Republic of Congo: Domestic Media

Monitoring Report

*Montreal Institute for
Genocide and Human Rights Studies*

Marie Lamensch – MIGS Media Monitor for the DRC



7 November-13 November 2011

Main Report Content

1. Electoral campaign violence draws national and international criticism
2. UN publishes report condemning human rights violations
3. Human rights activists condemn use of children in electoral campaign
4. Etienne Tshisekedi draws criticism after inflammatory comments
5. Radio installed in small communities to improve security
6. Media watchdog condemns ban of radio programme
7. Security Update
8. ICC sends monitors to the DRC
9. Kabila and government praise own mandate
10. Initiatives to appease electoral campaign
11. NGOs accuse FARDC of being implicated in electoral campaign

1. Electoral campaign violence draws national and international criticism

Government-owned media

(Agence Congolaise Presse, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 7 November 2011, in French)

«La campagne électorale à l'Equateur émaillée d'incidents »

- The electoral campaign in Equatorial Province has been marked by violence between militants. Clashes took place between the ADH (Alliance des démocrates humanitaires) and the PPRD. In Mbandaka, violence erupted between Parti démocrate chrétien (PDC) militants and an armed man who was carrying a machete and was allegedly trying to intimidate them. Nicolas Isofale, an MLC candidate to the legislative elections, says he was threatened with death by a group of armed men.
- Similar events took place in Bunia where rival groups regularly clash since the beginning of the electoral campaign. Several legislative candidates asked some of their supporters to take down campaign posters belonging to their rivals.

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 9 November, 2011, in French)

« La Ceni condamne les violations du Code de bonne conduite » by Pitshou Mulumba

- Following increasing tensions and violence, Ceni condemns the lack of respect paid to the Code of Good Conduct and various other laws. The commission has noted intolerant behaviors, inflammatory speeches and provocations likely to lead to violence. Ceni therefore urges political demonstration organizers to maintain order and respect the law. The body also asked Congolese authorities to be more professional. Political parties, militants and candidates must respect democracy, the Code of Good Conduct and other legal measures.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 9 November, 2011, in French)

« Inquiétudes »

- In a communiqué published on Tuesday, the European Union expressed its worries over increasing electoral violence. The EU believes it could challenge the whole electoral process and called on political actors to respect the rules of the elections and other candidates.

- The EU is particularly worried by some of the candidates' behaviors, whose sole objective is to win. Tensions are also likely to increase as election-day approaches.
- Regarding the application of the electoral law, some opposition candidates feel that the Majority and those in power have more advantages and are allowed to hang campaign banners on public buildings without facing sanctions.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 8 November, 2011, in French)

« Renoncer à l'usage de la violence »

- Electoral violence is becoming particularly visible despite the fact that political parties have signed the Code of Good Conduct. The Code demands a respect of the electoral law and calls on all candidates to refrain from using hate speech and intimidations. They must also maintain cohesion and social peace in order to contribute to democratic, free and peaceful elections. Failure to respect the law will be denounced publicly and sanctions will be taken.
- In Lubumbashi, clashes between the UDPS and UNAFEC militants caused 20 casualties.
- In Goma, the alleged kidnapping of a singer close to the opposition lead to material damage. He reappeared later in a poor physical state.
- In Mbuji-Mayi, clashes between the UDPS and the PPRD caused the death of an 8-year old girl and to several casualties.
- The US ambassador, James Entwistle, called on all politicians to refrain from using violence, intimidation and inflammatory speeches during their political campaign, and to accept the will of the Congolese people and demand to same from their partisans.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 7 November, 2011, in French)

« La désillusion au bout de la campagne » Philippe Mbayi Wete

- *Le Potentiel* deplores some of the candidates and political parties' lack of professionalism. Parties seem to know very little about their electoral base, which could lead to the voters' disillusion. Voters do not know the candidates.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 November, 2011, in French)

« Processus électoral en RDC : La Belgique déplore les violences durant la campagne électorale » by Luc-Roger Mbala

- The Belgian Foreign Minister, Steven Vaneckere, and Minister of Development Cooperation, Olivier Chastelont, deplored the electoral campaign's violent incidents. In a communiqué, they declared that the presidential and legislative elections constitute an important step towards the consolidation of democracy in the DRC. They called on all the candidates be responsible and

accept the election's results. None of the candidates should proclaim himself as the legitimate president or incite violence.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 1 November, 2011, in French)

« La tenue des élections le 28 novembre prochain en RDC. Roger Meece : "Une chance pour le relèvement du pays" by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- Monusco representative, Roger Meece, told UN General Secretary as well as various Congolese politicians that the legislative and presidential elections would indeed take place 28 November. He told the assembly that political actors should understand that the election is not an end itself but a step towards the consolidation of democracy. It is therefore crucial to ban hate speech and any incitement to violence. He fears an escalation of the climate of tension and called on Congolese authorities to take all necessary measures to allow all candidates to participate freely and peacefully in the elections. He added that parties that have not signed the Code of Good Conduct should do so.
- Meece explained that the organization of the elections has its logistical difficulties. 32 million of voters have registered and 18864 candidates are running for the elections.
- Regarding the Rapid Intervention police trained by Monusco, France and South Africa, Meece said the force was in need of equipment as Monusco lacks the necessary funds: only 500000 dollars of the 3 million dollars promised by the UN members have been allocated.
- The security situation in the east remains fragile as numerous armed groups remain active. Meece said this situation could affect the electoral process. He explained that Monusco and the FARDC had lost ground, especially in the Kivus particularly as a result of a lack of helicopters. The Mai Mai Yaktumba took the advantage to reinforce their presence in South Kivu by consolidating their ties with the FDLR.
- Meece nonetheless added that a lot of efforts were being made to neutralize the LRA.
- On the subject of sexual violence, Meece said he is shocked by the number of victims and stated that more than half these crimes are perpetrated by armed groups, including the LRA and the FDLR, and 40% by the FARDC. Since the national army is partly constituted of former rebel combatants, Meece said it is urgent to review the army's integration model. The UN representative nonetheless welcomed efforts made to end impunity but concluded that more needed to be done.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 November, 2011, in French)

« Campagne électorale : l'Union européenne s'inquiète » by Stephane Etinga

- The EU and French Foreign Minister, Alain Juppé, is worried about tensions observed during the electoral campaign as the rules of good conduct are not being respected. After noticing various

acts of violence and hate speech, the EU called on candidates to respect the law in order to avoid political, social and ethnic tensions.

- Tensions have been particularly rife since the suspension of one of RTLTV's TV programme, a station owned by opposition Roger Lumbala. The CSAC (Audiovisual and communication Superior Council) has suspended the channel for a week after RTLTV broadcasted statements which could incite to violence.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 November, 2011, in French)

« Eviter l'escalade »

- *Le Potentiel* acknowledges that the electoral campaign is far from being peaceful and does not wish to see the country slip into chaos. The newspaper calls on politicians to remain responsible and to avoid an escalation of violence before it is too late. Political parties should privilege national cohesion instead.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 November, 2011, in French)

« Violence électorale : Moïse Katumbi implique les leaders communautaires »

- Katanga's Provincial governor, Moïse Katuma, asked ethnic community leaders to participate to efforts to put an end to tensions observed in Lubumbashi since the beginning of the electoral campaign. However, community representatives argued that there are no inter-communal conflicts in the city but that violence is a result of political hate speech. Kasai Occidental community president, Sylvain Mwamba Mutshipayi, claims politicians manipulate the population and called on Congolese people to remain united.

(Inter Press Services news, independent international news provider, dated 12 November 2011, in English)

"Congo-Kinshasa: Election Promises of Peace and Security" by Badylon Kawanda Bakiman

- The 11 candidates running in presidential elections pledged to improve peace and security. According to Prime Minister Adolphe Muzito, the candidates seek to provide the country with more well-trained officers in order to ensure stability and security.
- The FARDC is regarded as poorly-trained as many former rebels have been integrated into the army. Insecurity remains a major problem, especially in the east, where rebel groups as well as members of the national army have been implicated in murders and rapes. These human rights violations have led to the displacement of many residents of the Kivus. According to a recent report, 76% of the population has been affected by armed conflict, and many have been sexually

abused. US researchers estimate that between 1.7-1.8 million women have been raped. Muzito remained vague about the government's plan regarding sexual violence.

- Vital Kamerhe, an Opposition candidate, says his party will put in place a joint international court in order to prosecute perpetrators and combat the culture of impunity. If elected, the army and police forces will be better trained and well-paid in order to improve security.
- Congolese people remain skeptical about the candidates' promises.

2. UN publishes report condemning human rights violations

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 November, 2011, in French)

« Violations des droits de l'Homme : l'ONU tire la sonnette d'alarme »

- Incidents noticed during the pre-electoral period could challenge the electoral process and engender post-electoral violence, according to a UN report which denounces human rights violations perpetrated during the pre-electoral period. Since November last year, the UN has noticed violations of freedom of speech, personal integrity and security as well as freedom of assembly. Public authorities and political party partisans have perpetrated numerous violations as well.
- Human rights activists and civilians have been subject to death threats and arbitrary arrests.
- The UN says freedom of speech is essential especially during elections.
- Considering that the current human rights situation and the fact that the 2006 elections were marred by violence, the 2011 elections constitute a particular challenge. A lot of the violence has been perpetrated by members of the Congolese national army or Congolese Intelligence Services.
- The UN's High Commissioner to Human Rights, Navi Pillay, declared that she is persuaded that Congolese people want peaceful, free and fair elections. Intimidations, threats and arbitrary arrests are unacceptable and challenge the elections. The governments and its leaders should therefore establish a zero tolerance policy.
- According to the report, the security situation remains preoccupying in the east where political parties, especially the UDPS and the UNC, have been particularly targeted and threatened.
- Roger Meece welcomes efforts made, especially regarding the behavior of several PNC units trained by Monusco. Yet he deplores violent political tensions which could lead to further human rights violations and other acts of violence during the electoral process. Meece believes it is a politician's role to contribute to democratic and peaceful elections. Among numerous recommendations, the UN calls on the government to intensify its cooperation with civil society and to ask public authorities to promote human rights instead of violating them. The UN also urged political parties to ask Congolese people to contribute to peaceful elections and to respect

the law, particularly young people. The international community, meanwhile, should increase the support to the government, civil society and public authorities.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 November, 2011, in French)

« Luzolo Bambi réagit au rapport du Bureau conjoint des Nations Unies » by Donatien Ngandu Mupompa

- The Minister of Justice and Human Right does not fully agree with the UNHCR report published last week regarding human rights violations in the DRC during the pre-electoral process. The minister said the government would take the report into account but rejects some of the accusations and recommendations. He argued that the UN has not taken into account several observations made by the government and believes human rights violations have been exaggerated.
- Regarding the identity of the victims, the minister said the report simply presents a list of abuses while keeping the victims' identity secret. Most victims seem to belong to the opposition, which, according to Luzolo Bambi, shows a lack of objectivity and could lead to a eulogy of the UDPS, the UNC and the Bundu dia Mayala. The opposition should not be seen as martyrs as this does not correspond to the reality on the ground. He therefore wishes to know the names of the victims in order to verify the facts.
- The minister claims that human rights activists and journalists can work freely. He reminded the population the government, unlike the Senate and the Parliament, has made particularly efforts to pass a law regarding the protection of human activists. He added that the government would hold a special session on human rights in mid-November in order to assess the situation. Finally, he concluded that the justice system now had a Crime Warning Centre
- Bambi stated that politicians use the media to incite violence and says his Ministry remains vigilant and keeps the population, the international community and the ICP observatory mission informed.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 11 November, 2011, in French)

« Sécurité électorale »

- The UNHCR published a report on the human rights situation in the DRC. The report cites numerous human rights violations perpetrated since 1 November 2010. 188 violations related to the elections have been listed. Most violations regard freedom of expression, physical integrity and security, and freedom of demonstration. The PNC and National Intelligence Agency are said to be the main perpetrators, while victims mostly belong to the Opposition, particularly the UDPS and the UNC. The UN is particularly worried about the security situation.

- The government accepts the report and approves the recommendations but does not necessarily agree with some of its content and form. The minister of Justice disapproves with the identity of the victims, who remain anonymous but are supposed to belong to the opposition.
- Le Potentiel says national authorities are always on the defensive when they are accused of human rights violations. The government always uses the same methods when it is criticized by NGOs, that is by discrediting the reports. Yet the reality on the ground is often very different from the government's claims. The newspaper says the government's attitude and refusal to admit its errors shows a lack of political will. Le Potentiel is also worried about the elections and who to refer to in case of tensions if the security forces are the main perpetrators of violations.

3. Human rights activists condemn use of children in electoral campaign

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 GMT, 9 November, 2011, in French)

- A human rights activist is concern over the deliberate use of children during the electoral campaign and asked Ceni (National Independent Electoral Commission) to enforce the electoral law which prohibits such actions by candidates.

4. Etienne Tshisekedi draws criticism after inflammatory comments

Government-owned media

(Radio-Télévision Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 GMT, 9 November, 2010, in French)

- In a radio statement, Etienne Tshisekedi's (UDPS) proclaimed himself the DRC's head of state. The High Audiovisual and Communication Council [CSAC] decided to ban the Radio Television Lisanga station for a week for airing his message, which, according to the CSAC incites the population to hatred. Radio Top Congo FM has also been issued a warning for broadcasting the address.

Privately-owned media

(Radio Netherlands Worldwide, independent Dutch international public broadcaster, dated 11 November 2011, in English)

"Congo-Kinshasa: Opposition Leader Urges Voters to Rise Up"

- Opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi called on the population Friday to "terrorize" President Joseph Kabila's regime and to free political prisoners from Congolese jails. UDPS militants later clashed with militants from the Presidential Majority in Katanga. Six people were wounded.

Tshisekedi said dictatorship was based on fear but that Congolese people had to become more self-confident. He believes his role is to “remove the fear in their heads by mobilizing them to terrorize those who have terrorized us for so long...” but added that this was not a call for violence. He referred to his supporters as fighters.

- The EU, the US, France and the UK called for restraint but Tshisekedi said his comments did not amount to incitement to violence and added that the Majority is violating the constitution by arresting and killing Congolese people.

5. Radios installed in small communities to improve security

Privately-owned media

(Misna, Italian-based Missionary Service News Agency, Rome, 9 November 2011, in English)

“DR Congo installs high frequency radios to counter Ugandan rebels attacks”

Unattributed report: "High frequency radios in the forest to help track the LRA"

- High-frequency radios were installed in the forests in northern DR Congo to facilitate communication between local communities in order to counter attacks by the LRA. The initiative was taken by NGO Invisible children.

6. Media watchdog condemns ban of radio programme

Privately-owned media

(Radio Okapi, UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 8 November 2011, in French)

“Media watchdog demands resumption of signal for DR Congo's opposition radio”

- Journalists in Danger (JED) disapproves the ban of the Radio and Television Liberte's (RLTV's) following a broadcast of UDPS leader Etienne Tshisekedi's comments. The NGO says the UDPS leader should be “the only one to bear responsibility for these remarks” and deplored the lack of real debate in the media.
- JED secretary-general Tshivis Tshivuadi said that he “bitterly” regrets Tshisekedi's remarks

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 GMT, 7 November, 2011, in French)

“DR Congo radio cancels political debate show ahead of elections”

- In Mahagi, Radio Colombe management has cancelled a political debate programme. Jean Delacroix Wapokire Uciran, the station's director, explained he was forced to cancel the show after an altercation between two parliamentary elections candidates. They used abusive

language against each other and authorities had to be deployed to the radio station. He says stability in the region is fragile and increasing intolerance has been observed among politicians.

7. Security Update

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 November, 2011, in French)

« Province Orientale : la situation sécuritaire demeure relativement stable » by Stephane Etinga

- Despite minor incidents caused by the LRA in the Bangadi-Ngilima-Diru triangle, the security situation in Provincial Orientale remains relatively under control. Civilians kidnapped by the LRA were released early November and new operational posts have been opened in several locations in order to increase Monusco's and the FARDC's presence.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 GMT, 8 November, 2011, in French)

“Militia group invades mining location in northeastern DR Congo”

- Civil Society representatives said FRPI militiamen attacked a mine in the south of Ituri. Two miners were killed and nine civilians were abducted, including women and children. Local administrative leaders blame the attack on the absence of Congolese troops and called on the government to intervene.
- The FRPI has been particularly active in the region: two mines were attacked last weekend, leading to the death of two civilians

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 GMT, 9 November, 2011, in French)

- Militiamen of the Patriotic Resistance Front in Ituri invaded a mine in Talolo, south of Bunia, looting goods and abducting six civilians.

- The administrator of Aru, Ituri, said a group of Ugandan traders destroyed the Congolese border post of Saplet after the Congolese authorities seized some of their goods. The traders tried to cross illegally into the DRC.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1730 GMT, 7 November, 2011, in French)

- A group of 100 militia fighters from the Patriotic Resistance Front in Ituri invaded mines in Tchelekpeshe and Alungu, south of Bunia. Seven civilians were killed, 12 injured and 20 others abducted before the FARDC intervened.

(The Guardian, privately-owned Tanzanian newspaper, Dar es Salaam, 7 November 2011, in English)

“Twenty armed DR Congo soldiers arrested in western Tanzania”

Text of unattributed report entitled "DR Congo soldiers held for illegal entry"

- Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) in Kigoma arrested twenty FARDC soldiers for illegally entering the country with fire arms. The soldiers were allegedly pursuing rebels.
- Last year, MPs urged President Jakaya Kikwete to create a special police zone to combat what 'increasing crime incidents' in the region due to the presence of refugees from Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda. Residents of the region are said to feel increasingly insecure as people enter the country with illegal firearms.

8. ICC sends monitors to the DRC

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 November, 2011, in French)

« Elections 2011 : la CPI envoie une mission »

- The ICC prosecutor said he would follow the elections closely and would prosecute anyone who violated human rights. In a letter addressed to Luis Moreno Ocampo, the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Luzolo Bambi, asked the prosecutor to send a monitoring body to the DRC yet the Court does not plan to monitor the electoral process.
- Nonetheless, Ocampo says those who perpetrate crimes against humanity will be prosecuted systematically. Investigations regarding pre-electoral violence in Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire have already been launched. Before the elections in October, a similar message had been sent to Liberia.
- Ocampo says the elections should not reinforce the country's culture of impunity. He also reminded Congolese authorities that the government still has to hand over Bosco Ntaganda, who is currently facing an arrest warrant but has been integrated into the national army

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 10 November, 2011, in French)

« Faits et gestes d'acteurs politiques pendant le processus électoral. Une mission d'observation de la CPI dans les provinces » by Willy Kilapi

- The government told the population and the international community that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is currently sending an observatory mission to the DRC. The Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Emmanuel Luzolo Bambi Lessa, said some monitors are already present in several provinces after intolerant behaviors were noted.
- In 2004, the DRC invited the ICC to help to cooperate with the Congolese justice system. Bambi declared said the deployment of monitors constitutes a warning for politicians on both sides of the political spectrum. Several candidates have called for violence and contestation of the results.
- The UNHCR recently published a special report on the human rights situation in the DRC but the Minister of Justice deplores the report's shortcomings and says the body has not taken into account some of the government's comments. He argues that the number of human rights violations has been inflated and presents the Opposition as martyrs while demonizing the Majority. He said the report shows a lack of impartiality and knowledge of the government's efforts on the ground.
- Regarding recent violent and intolerant behaviors, the Justice Minister explained these acts are multiplying, adding that the government would hold a special meeting in order to discuss the human rights situation during the elections.

9. Kabila and government praise own mandate

(Agence Congolaise Presse, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 8 November 2011, in French)

« Le Président Joseph Kabila se félicite d'avoir réalisé en grande partie les promesses faites en 2006 à la population du territoire d'Uvira »

- President Kabila is campaigning in South Kivu. He believes the promises made to the local population have been fulfilled. In 2006, he promised to establish security in Uvira, which he argued is now 90% done. He also added that rehabilitation work in Uvira had been made and road would be improved.
- Kabila nonetheless admitted that several promises had not been fulfilled, including access to drinkable water and electricity as well as free primary education. He asked the population of Uvira to vote for him so he can complete his development and modernization programme.

- He told mothers and young people that the government had created microcredits in order to improve small commercial activities. He added that efforts would be made to recover land in Ruzizi and give it back to their proprietors.

(Agence Congolaise Presse, government-owned news agency, Kinshasa, article dated 7 November 2011, in French)

« Le Premier ministre Muzito juge positif le bilan du gouvernement »

- Prime Minister, Adolphe Muzito, considers the government's 2006-2011 mandate globally positive. He believes the story of the DRC can be divided into two periods: before colonial and other predatory powers, and after the arrival of the nationalists, who laid the ground for the reconstruction and development of the DRC.
- In 2006, the government inherited a country with growing insecurity but nonetheless managed to bring back peace, although some pockets of insecurity remain. The minister is also proud of the PNC, which have gone through rigorous training.
- In terms of decentralization, justice and diplomacy notable progress has been made. The government's vast reconstruction programme, the "Five Pillars", has led to improvements in terms of infrastructure, such as roads and schools. In terms of economic planning and development, cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions allowed the government to master the inflation and debt.
- The Prime Minister also mentioned that efforts had to be made in the social sector since poverty and unemployment have not declined. He mentioned some of the government's future objectives in order to improve access to electricity and drinkable water. If Kabila and the Majority win the elections, the salaries of public servants will be raised.

10. Initiatives to appease electoral campaign

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 November, 2011, in French)

« Les partis politiques fument le calumet de la paix au Kasai Oriental » by Pitshou Mulumba

- In a signed declaration, representatives of the Opposition and the Presidential Majority in Kasai Orientale have expressed their will to organize a peaceful electoral campaign. A meeting between the participants had been organized by Monusco and religious leaders. Participants promise to refrain from inciting violence and plan to educate their militants on the importance of elections for the consolidation of democracy.
- Tensions had been rife in the province and the Potentiel therefore welcomes the declaration.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 November, 2011, in French)

« Mbandaka : le comité national de sécurisation des élections à pied d'œuvre » by Stephane Etinga

- The National Committee for the securisation of the elections started its work in Equatorial Province. A delegation made of the elements of the PNC, Monusco, and the FARDC seeks to inspect all security measures put in place for the elections. The head of the delegation, Charles Bisengimana, explained that the Committee also plans to deploy more human and logistical resources in order to improve the PNC's work.
- Considering pre-electoral violence has already been noted, Le Potentiel believes the Committee should take preventive measures to avoid the worse. Many people have already condemned acts of violence and intolerance perpetrated by political actors.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 November, 2011, in French)

« Résolution des conflits électoraux : la Ceni met sur pied un comité de médiation » by Ludi Cardoso

- In order organize peaceful elections, Ceni has set up a seven-member mediation body which seeks to facilitate dialog between political actors and to settle conflicts peacefully. Ceni's president deplores acts of violence and intimidations perpetrated since the beginning of the electoral campaign two weeks ago. He reminded candidates that these illegal acts will be punished. According to Congolese law, perpetrators can face fines, jail sentences and even death penalty.
- Referring to the case of Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire, he also added that perpetrators of violence could face the ICC. The International Court's prosecutor recently reminded Congolese people that he is closely following the elections. Ceni invited the ICC to monitor grave human rights violations before, during and after the elections.

11. NGOs accuse FARDC of being implicated in electoral campaign

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 November, 2011, in French)

« Nord-Kivu : des ONG accusent des officiers des FARDC de battre campagne à Walikale » by Pitshou Mulumba

- Walikale's human rights NGOs denounced the involvement of the FARDC in the electoral campaign. According to these organizations FARDC elements were seen distributing money, other campaign material and effigies representing Joseph Kabila to the population. The soldiers asked young people to vote for the president and organized a concert for the population during which money was distributed.

- The NGOs say this is violation of the electoral law and risks challenging election results. Congolese authorities said they would look into the issue.
- Members of the national army and the PNC are apolitical and cannot vote.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 November, 2011, in French)

« Nord-Kivu : les militaires sensibilisés à l'apolitisme de l'armée »

- Commander Etienne Muhindo reminded the FARDC of the 81st and 85th sectors that they should remain neutral and apolitical during the electoral campaign. Muhindo said their mission is to protect civilians and territorial integrity. The mission of the army in Beni-Butembo is to track the Mai-Mai, the FDLR and other rebel groups.
- Several days ago, NGOs condemned the involvement of the FARDC in the electoral campaign. They distributed campaign material supporting Joseph Kabila to the population.